



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: HIRA1140

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mukouyama et al. Art Unit: 1651  
Application No.: 09/408,142 Examiner: I. Marx  
Filed: September 29, 1999 Confirmation No.: 3645  
Title: METHODS FOR PRODUCING L-ASPARTIC ACID

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

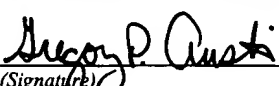
Sir:

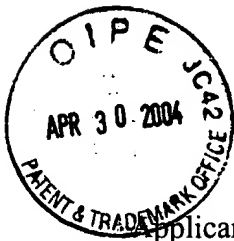
In response to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully request entry of amendments to application and claims as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page two of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page three of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page seven of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.8	
I hereby certify that the documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on this date, April 28, 2004, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Gregory P. Austin (Name of Person Mailing Paper)	
 (Signature)	April 28, 2004 (Date)



JFW

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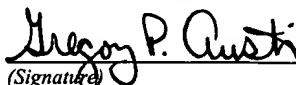
MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for the above-identified application please find:

1. Response to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2004 (9 pgs.) and
2. Return Receipt Postcard.

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In re Application of:  
Mukouyama et al.  
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Page 2

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Applicants claim **LARGE ENTITY** status in the above-identified application.


The Fee for this Response is calculated as follows:

For	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Small Entity Rate	Large Entity Rate	Calculations
Total Claims	14	20	0	x \$09	x \$18	\$0
Independent Claims	2	3	0	x \$43	x \$86	\$0
Multiple Dependent Claim(s)	N/A			\$145	\$290	\$0
					TOTAL FEE	\$0

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this communication. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee associated with this communication, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1355. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 28, 2004



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